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LETTER DATED 3 FEBRUARY 1997 FROM THE CHARGE D'AFFAIRES A.I. OF THE PERMANENT MISSION OF THE UNITED ARAB EMIRATES TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

On instructions from my Government, I have the honour to transmit herewith the text of note No. OK1/7/2-50, dated 28 January 1997, from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the United Arab Emirates addressed to the Embassy of the Islamic Republic of Iran in Abu Dhabi, setting forth the Ministry's vigorous protests against the violation of the territorial waters of the United Arab Emirates on 19 January 1997 by a military supply ship flying the Iranian flag and fitted out with four 40/60-mm guns and by another Iranian vessel which was carrying a number of vehicles, cement, sand and building materials. This illegal action is a blatant violation of the sovereignty of the United Arab Emirates, a flagrant breach of the norms and principles governing relations between States and conduct that is contrary to the principle of good-neighbourliness.

I should be grateful if you would have the text of this letter and its annex circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Khalid Khalifa AL-MUALLA
Chargé d'affaires a.i.

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Annex

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the United Arab Emirates presents its compliments to the Embassy of the Islamic Republic of Iran in Abu Dhabi and has the honour to inform it that on 19 January 1997, at 5.30 a.m., units of the border guards and the coast guard and police aircraft accompanying them sighted an object at sea situated 3 nautical miles from Red Island, belonging to the emirate of Ras al-Khaimah. It was ascertained that the object was a military supply ship flying the Iranian flag, specifically the landing craft Hinjam 511, sailing at the speed of 14.5 knots and fitted out with four 40/60-mm guns.

On the same day, another object was sighted in the same position. It, too, was found to be an Iranian vessel carrying a number of vehicles, cement, sand and building materials.

The commander of the vessel, with whom contact had been made for the purpose of ascertaining the reasons for the vessel's entering the territorial waters of the United Arab Emirates, stated that he had the authorization of the port authorities of the emirates of Ajman and Ras al-Khaimah, an assertion that was subsequently found to be totally unfounded.

Given such unjustified violation of its territorial waters, the United Arab Emirates vigorously protests against these illegal actions, which constitute a blatant violation of its sovereignty, a flagrant breach of the norms and principles governing relations between States and conduct that is contrary to the principle of good-neighbourliness.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs therefore expects that the Embassy of the Islamic Republic of Iran will promptly convey to the competent authorities the vehement protest of the United Arab Emirates and the latter's wishes that such violations of its sovereignty will not be repeated, as they can only have a detrimental effect on relations between the two countries.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs takes this opportunity to convey to the Embassy of the Islamic Republic of Iran the renewed assurances of its highest consideration.